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WORKING PAPER

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Activities of the New Federal Mapping Task Force

1. The Federal Mapping Task Force was convened on 17 April by Mr. Donelson, OMB. Membership is made up of representatives of DoD, Interior, NOAA, and Agriculture. Work was initiated with a wide ranging discussion of the nature and scope of the study, its complexity and a delineation of its parameters. The discussion was channelled into the preparation of an outline for the collection of information on the objectives and products, on the size of the resources utilized and cost incurred by nearly 50 different agencies directly or indirectly engaged in some aspect of basic mapping and charting. With this information in hand the Task Force plans to review the programs, products, and processes undertaken by these various agencies in their activities, the relevance of their mapping activities to their agency mission. While the main objective of the Task Force is being directed to a modernized rationalization of civil mapping resources, a major factor in this evaluative process will be the availability, use, and value of intelligence source materials and their impact on any proposed reorganization.

2. The Agency role, as now visible, will involve: (1) a wide range of security questions arising in connection with the consideration of the use of intelligence source materials by the civil mapping agencies, (2) assessing the national security implications resulting from the flow of classified information into public channels through US civil maps and data catalogs and tapes, (3) the anticipated competition for the limited collection resources, and (4) providing intelligence information and judgments on the problems of establishing liaison between US civil and foreign civil mapping agencies.

Chief, Special Research Branch
Geography Division, OBG

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Attachment:

Mapping Task Force - Draft Items for
Consideration~~SECRET~~GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification